

LEADERS GUIDE

A SIMPLE THEOLOGY OF PRAYER: Part 1

Thank you for leading Part 1: Why Pray? (Understanding the Power and Purpose of Prayer)

We hope these guidelines will make your preparation more streamlined and organized, and maximize the experience for those taking the course. Feel free to adapt the material any way you wish.

Commit to praying for those who will be in your group, asking God to teach each one more about Himself, and more about seeking Him in prayer.

LEADER GUIDELINES:

Sub-Accounts for Group Members:

First of all, be sure all participants in your group have their own sub-account for access to the course:

- The person who is administrating the PrayerU membership for your church can give all church members such an account. Please connect with this person and be sure everyone in your group has been sent an email with instructions. Once members have this set up they have access to all course content for as long as the church has a membership.
- Next, check with your group members to be sure they have set up their own username and password to access the course content, or if they need any help with this task.

Be sure books are ordered for your group.

Arrange for each participant (couples can share if they wish) to have a book in plenty of time to do the reading for the first lesson. Check for bulk discounts for group orders. The text for

this course is [Forgotten Power \(A Simple Theology for a Praying Church\) by David Butts.](#)

This book will also be the text for **Part 2 of A Simple Theology of Prayer: Becoming a Praying Church, which we recommend following this current course.

Meeting in Person

- Have your people do the reading, watch the video and spend time thinking about and responding to the discussion questions on their own prior to meeting as a group. This will help them to be well-prepared for discussion and prayer each week. If you wish to watch the video with the group all together, that's fine too; however, please know that some of the discussion questions are based on this video.
- With everyone together, go through the **Questions to Consider** (you may wish to select just a few of the questions depending on how much time you have), **Final Thoughts from Dave** (a short summary video), **Spend Time in Prayer** and introduce the **Next Steps**.

Meeting Online

- Here are some helpful tutorials if you would like to use Zoom as a tool to present any of the information in this course and to be sure everyone is instructed about how to take part. You may find that Screen Share is all you will need as a leader.
[Click for Zoom Tutorials](#)
- Be sure you or your church has a Zoom account that will allow you to meet longer than 40 minutes, as this is the maximum length of time allowed by free accounts.

- Be sure you have the email contact for all participants ahead of time to send Zoom invites, and so they can be connected with you if they have questions or comments about the course.
- Have people do the reading, watch the video and spend time thinking about the discussion questions on their own prior to meeting as a group online. This will help them to be well-prepared for discussion and prayer each week. If you wish to watch the video with the group all together, that's fine too; however, please know that some of the discussion questions are based on this video.
- With everyone together on Zoom, go through the **Questions to Consider** (you may wish to select just a few of the questions depending on how much time you have), **Final Thoughts from Dave** (a short summary video), **Spend Time in Prayer** and introduce the **Next Steps**.

PDFs:

Familiarize yourself with the PDFs that are available for each lesson. This gives greater flexibility for you as a leader, as well as for those taking the course. Whether you are meeting in person or online, you should be able to help your group access the content however it works best for them.

- **Lesson PDFs** – Every lesson has its own individual PDF of the content with the exception of Supplemental Materials. You may want to print off a copy to use as a reference for leading.
- **Questions to Consider PDFs** – there is a separate PDF just for the discussion questions in each lesson so that you can make hard copies available to people to write notes on

during your group gatherings. Remember, these questions are also on the Lesson PDF.

- **Spend Time in Prayer PDFs** – Not every Lesson will use a PDF; however, as you read through each lesson prior to the week it will take place, be sure the PDFs for the prayer times are accessible to everyone. You will also want to have the Leader's Instructions (see below).
- **Spend Time in Prayer Leader Instructions** – Instructions for all 6 prayer times will be on this PDF. We suggest you print it and keep it handy so that you can refer to it prior to each lesson. There will also be a convenient link to this document available to click on for each lesson.
- **Other PDFs** – you may see links to PDFs for various articles and blogs in some of the lessons. Be sure each person taking the course has a copy of or access to each one prior to the Lesson it pertains to.

Planning the Lessons

- **Read through each lesson ahead of time.**
It will be important to familiarize yourself with all of the material available to you. For example, you may wish to incorporate one or more of the Supplemental Materials into the lesson depending upon time. You may want to print off each Lesson if that will help you guide your meeting times.
- **Plan how participants will access content when you meet together:**

Meeting in Person:

1. Suggest that people look at the questions and other content on their phone or iPad in order to participate in discussion, prayer time, etc.

2. Use a TV screen at church or in whatever home you are meeting in to project the content for everyone to see.
3. Be prepared in case someone asks you for a paper copy of any of the content.

Meeting by Zoom:

When you meet as a group on Zoom, there are a variety of ways people can join in to follow along with the material:

1. Suggest people use a different device than what they are using for the Zoom call to access **Questions to Consider, Spend Time in Prayer** and **Next Steps** materials, etc. For example, if they are on a computer for the call, they might use their phone or iPad to look at content.
 2. Screen Sharing: share content on your own screen to show the **Questions to Consider** (we suggest you show the PDF for greater clarity) when you are ready to discuss the reading and videos for each lesson. Do the same thing for **Spend Time in Prayer** using the PDFs of each lesson for a clearer picture of the content. Screen sharing is also a good way to talk about **Next Steps** and **Supplemental Materials**. If you don't know how to screen share, please refer to the Zoom Tutorials mentioned above.
- **Determine how much time your group will meet.**
Adapt to whatever works for your group, taking into account whatever time people want to spend fellowshiping together. Remember, unless you decide to structure things differently, each person will already have done the reading, watched the first video and spent time with the discussion questions. Hopefully most participants will come prepared to discuss and pray! **We recommend choosing the discussion questions (Questions to Consider) you**

most want to talk about in case you don't have enough time for all of them.

- **Schedule plenty of time for prayer:**

- ❖ The **Spend Time in Prayer** section is a **crucial part** of each lesson and is designed to give your group some creative seasons of prayer and to **help people apply what they are learning**. Our recommendation is to allow at least 20 minutes of your lesson time for prayer. Please prepare yourself in advance to lead by accessing the **Spend Time in Prayer Leader Instructions** and the PDF for each lesson's **Spend Time in Prayer**. Be sure that everyone understands the directions.

- ❖ Give people permission to pray silently in agreement if they are uncomfortable praying out loud. Also, let them know you will not call on them to pray out loud. We have found, after years of experience in many churches, that people will need to hear you say these things or they will be reluctant to participate. Some may even drop out of the group. You will likely find that many will eventually feel more comfortable participating out loud when they are ready.

- **Next Steps, Supplemental Materials and Going Deeper**

- ❖ Please allow 5-10 minutes to talk about and encourage people to do the **Next Steps** and to look through the **Supplemental Material**.

- ❖ **At the end of the Last Lesson:** Please be sure that your people see the **Go Deeper** and **More Resources** sections (located after the last lesson). All of this will

enhance what people are learning and experiencing about prayer individually and as a group.

- ❖ The **More Resources** section goes to the Harvest Prayer Ministries website. On this site people can also sign up for two FREE resources: our daily prayer devotional – Connection, and Prayer Tip Tuesday – a weekly email with prayer tips, articles, etc.

- **Reminders for the coming week's lesson:**

Remind people to do the reading, watch the video and spend time with the discussion questions prior to the next meeting.

QUESTIONS? We are here to help you! Simply click on "Contact" in the menu bar and either email or call us!

WE'D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK! Please let us know what you thought of the course! If you, or anyone in the group, have any suggestions about how we can make the course better or more user friendly, please let us know! OR, if there is something you really liked, we'd love to know this also! Simply click on "Contact" in the menu bar and either call or email us! THANK YOU!

ONE MORE THING

Thanks again for choosing to lead a group through **Course #1: Why Pray? (Understanding the Power and Purpose of Prayer)**. We pray that you and your group will be blessed!

Please consider leading your group through A Simple Theology of Prayer Course #2: Becoming a Praying Church.